

# Emergency Responder



WASHINGTON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

WASHINGTON MILITARY DEPARTMENT

July-August 2003

## EMD creates homeland security section

Recognizing the growing demands of the homeland security program, the Emergency Management Division (EMD) plans to establish a separate Homeland Security Section on Sept. 15.

"The tremendous growth in the homeland security program in the last 12 to 18 months compels us to give it more focus, staff and direction within the division," explained Glen Woodbury, division director. "We want to ensure that EMD can help direct, manage and control the state's homeland security program rather than just be a reactor to federal budget requirements."

Under the reorganization, homeland security will become a separate section within the Policy, Programs and Training (PPT) Unit, which is headed by Jim Schoonover. The Homeland Security Section manager will be Roger Hieb, who previously supervised PPT's training, exercise and education section.

"Roger's experience as the state's coordinator for last May's TOPOFF 2 exercise was an excellent demonstration of the capabilities he will apply in his new post as homeland security section manager," Woodbury said.

Woodbury said PPT's training section will be added to its Program Section, headed by Maillian Uphaus.

"Maillian will continue her exemplary management of our federal programs policy development as well as ensuring the continuing excellence of our training, exercise, and education activities," he said.

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Flames erupted on the Farewell Peak Fire before it was contained Aug. 12 after burning 81,343 acres in the Pasayten Wilderness in Okanogan County. The fire was ignited by lightning June 29 but was successfully blocked from entering the Loomis State Forest and British Columbia. At one time, more than 1,000 firefighters battled the fire, whose suppression costs exceeded \$37 million by mid-August. (U.S. Forest Service photo).

## Fire mobilization program transitions smoothly to WSP

The 10-year-old Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan made a successful move July 27 from the Washington Military Department (WMD) to the Washington State Patrol (WSP).

The transition was "absolutely seamless," said Ken Parrish, state emergency operations center supervisor. "Overall, the mobilization process has been enhanced. The whole process works more smoothly."

With new responsibilities, there are new challenges, said Steve Kalmbach, head of the WSP's fire mobilization program. But he said the transition has been "generally a smooth process."

The transition, directed by legislation passed in the 2003 session, moved the fire mobilization approval authority and the program's financial administration from WMD to the State Patrol. The new legislation did not change the State Patrol's supervision of the dispatch of fire equipment and personnel.

Established by legislation enacted after the 1991 Firestorm disaster, the plan was first implemented in 1994 in conjunction with the cluster of wildfires in Chelan County. It allows the state to send reinforcements of fire personnel and equipment to local jurisdictions whose response capabilities become overwhelmed by major wildfires.

More recently, the mobilization plan has been invoked to support the law enforcement response to the city of Seattle's World Trade Organization civil emergency in 1999 and was used in last May's TOPOFF 2 weapons of mass destruction exercise.

The 2003 legislation also created a new law enforcement mobilization policy and plan that will utilize a statewide dispatch system to provide emergency support to local jurisdictions.

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## Fire mobilization transitions smoothly to WSP

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Besides consolidating the fire mobilization plan in WSP, the program transition led to several improvements in the fire mobilization process, said Parrish.

He said the WMD's Emergency Management Division (EMD) can concentrate on the activation of the state's emergency operations center while the WSP completes the authorization process through WSP Chief Ronal Serpas.

The program transfer also allowed EMD to shift the fire mobilization notification to a web-based system, allowing everyone to receive notification at the same time, Parrish said. Before, the modem system dialed notifications one at time.

In the public information area, the WSP and EMD combined media addresses in a new e-mail list that will save fax costs.

The following is a rundown of fire mobilizations through Aug. 24:

- On July 12 at 7:40 a.m., the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated to Phase II Operations in support of the Middle Fork Fire, a 1,920-acre blaze, 20 miles west of Yakima. Approximately 150 homes were threatened. Firefighters and equipment from Grant County and the Tri-Cities were sent to the fire by the fire mobilization plan. No homes were lost. The State EOC returned to Phase I Normal Operations at 6:00 p.m., July 15.
- On July 16 at 4:58 p.m., the State EOC was activated to Phase II Operations in support of a 200-acre wild fire outside the city of Okanogan, in Okanogan County. Under the state fire mobilization plan, more than 100 firefighters and 35 apparatus were sent to the blaze. Eight structures were lost before the blaze was contained. The State EOC returned to Phase I Normal Operations at 8:24 a.m., July 17.
- On July 20, Spokane County requested fire mobilization for a fast-moving wild land fire 2.5 miles south of Cheney. The Watt Road Fire rapidly expanded to more than 1,000 acres and threatened about 30 homes. The State EOC was activated to Phase II Operations as the fire mobilization was approved by the state Adjutant General at 7 p.m. A total of 1,064 acres were burned with seven outbuildings destroyed. Firefighting resources included 426 personnel, 2 helicopters, 53 engines, 2 dozers and 14 tenders. State mobilization resources were sent to the fire from Spokane, Lincoln, Whitman, Grant, Chelan, Douglas, Yakima, Benton and Walla Walla counties. The State EOC returned to Phase I Normal Operations at 9:30 a.m., July 24.
- On July 28, the state EOC activated for a fire mobilization in response to the Highway 10 Fire approximately 10 miles northwest of Ellensburg, near the town of Thorpe. This fire was initially reported to be 300 acres threatening 38 homes in the area. State fire mobilization was approved at 6:37 p.m. The fire was contained and demobilized at 3:35 p.m. on July 29 after burning 300 acres. No structures were burned.
- On July 29, the State Fire Service Mobilization Plan was activated for the 1,200 acre Hatton Road Fire burning in Lincoln County, 10 miles south of Creston. Approved at 12:31 p.m., the fire mobilization sent resources to the fire from Franklin, Douglas and Chelan counties and from Prosser, Richland and College Place. The State EOC returned to Phase I, Normal Operation, at 2 p.m. July 31 when state fire resources were demobilized.

## State 9-1-1 Day will recognize first responders

Despite the changed atmosphere, the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), the Washington State E911 Office and the state's public safety industry still recognizes and promotes 9-1-1 Day on Sept. 11.

Gov. Gary Locke proclaimed Sept. 11 as 9-1-1 Day in Washington. Take time on this special day to recognize the nation's first, first responders.

## DHS awards fire grants

Twenty-two Washington fire jurisdictions have received U.S. Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighter Grants.

Awards for fire operations and firefighter safety went to:

- Town of Hamilton, Skagit County, \$31,548.
- Day Creek, Sedro Woolley, \$31,500.
- Snohomish County Fire District No. 28, \$101,578.
- Klickitat County Fire District No. 5, \$26,772.
- Skagit County Fire District No. 9, \$56,417.
- Mill A Volunteers, Willard, Skamania County, \$89,272.
- Yakima County Fire District No. 9, \$67,500.
- Omak Volunteer Fire Department, \$16,046.
- Thurston County Fire District No. 12, \$84,209.
- Adams County Fire District No. 5, \$37,485.
- Rosalia Volunteer Fire Department, Whitman County, \$61,833.
- Stevens County Fire District No. 2, \$56,700.
- Ruston Fire Department, Pierce County, \$14,417.
- King County Fire District No. 47, \$56,079.
- City of Orting Fire Department, \$45,937.

Awards to upgrade self-contained breathing apparatus were made to:

- City of Vancouver Fire Department, \$377,510.
- Cowlitz County Fire District, No. 5, \$20,021.
- Clark County Fire District No. 3, \$188,125.
- Clark County Fire District No. 13, \$17,169.
- City of Stevenson Volunteer Fire Department, \$42,863.

Awards for firefighting vehicles were given to:

- Klickitat County Fire District No. 11 (Wishram) \$202,500.
- Spokane Tribal Fire Department, \$175,500.

## EMD coordinates compact

Washington and the staff of EMD on Sept. 6 become the national coordinators of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) that helps fill requests for equipment and workers for states that experience disasters and emergencies.

Washington, which joined the compact in 2001, will perform its coordination role for one year.

"We can expect to act upon five to 10 requests for assistance during the next year," said Dr. Terry Egan, Washington state's coordinator for EMAC and manager of EMD's Mitigation, Analysis and Plans Unit.

The compact includes 48 states and two territories and is managed by the National Emergency Management Association based in Washington, D.C.

## Mitigation plans finished

Two Washington jurisdictions have joined a group of six communities nationwide that have completed and submitted hazard mitigation plans under the standards set by the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

Thurston County was the state's first jurisdiction to submit a plan to meet the disaster mitigation planning criteria. The county plan covers 15 separate local governments, including county and city governments, special purpose districts and the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation.

The second plan, the Riverside Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, is a single jurisdiction plan that covers Pierce County Fire District No. 14.

Both Washington plans were sent to Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 10 for review approval.

State and local governments must have adopted and approved hazard mitigation plans in place by Nov. 1, 2004, to qualify for future federal hazard mitigation grant funds.



A loudspeaker system similar to the one shown above has become Washington's first prototype emergency public notification system. Installed in early July at Ocean Shores, the system will provide National Weather Service information as well as all-hazard warning messages, including tsunami warnings. The loudspeaker system, which is battery operated and charged by wind and solar power, includes both a blue strobe light, and a modulator speaker. (National Weather Service photo).

## EMD applies for FFY 2003 homeland security grants

Washington Emergency Management Division (EMD) formally applied for the \$29.9 million in grants from the Federal Fiscal Year State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) Part II on Aug. 4.

Completion of the application capped a busy summer of work by the terrorism program of the Policy and Programs section of EMD's Policy, Programs and Training Unit.

The terrorism program faced an almost impossible task to obligate in just 45 days nearly \$30 million of federal grants for homeland security critical infrastructure protection reimbursement and for first responder preparedness, explained Jim Schoonover, unit manager.

"Terrorism program staff worked long and hard to meet the 45-day deadline," he said. "We think this effort will pay off in the faster delivery of equipment and services to first responders across the state."

Under terms of the Federal FY 03 SHSGP Part II grants, 80 percent of the \$25.9 million assigned to first responder preparedness must go to local jurisdictions.

Washington's application divided the first responder preparedness money among 11 jurisdictions and two state agencies—the Washington State Patrol and EMD.

The first responder preparedness allocations to state homeland security region were as follows:

Region 1, \$3.2 million; Region 2, \$1.2 million; Region 3, \$1.5 million; Region 4, \$1.6 million; Region 5, \$2.2 million; Region 6, \$5.3 million; Region 7, \$1 million; Region 8, \$1.8 million; and Region 9, \$2.3 million.

As of Aug. 1, eight of the nine regions had submitted exercise training schedules under SHGP Part II. The grant will require each region to conduct a functional exercise and a table top exercise by mid-2005.

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## EMD applies for FY 2003 homeland security grants

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EMD staff indicated that the state and one homeland security region will conduct a joint exercise in the spring of 2005.

Part II of the Federal Fiscal Year 2003 SGHSP grants also allocated \$3.9 million to the state to reimburse cities, counties and tribal nations for critical infrastructure protection between last March 17 and April 16. The state subsequently obligated \$1.08 million for reimbursements to 16 local jurisdictions and \$65,054 to state agencies. The remaining funds will be held for future periods of heightened terror threats.

Following completion of the SGHSP Part II application, EMD's terrorism program staff turned its attention to the Fiscal Year 2002 Preparedness Program grant which allocates \$5 million for equipment and \$278,000 for training. Plans call for the equipment orders to be completed by the end of August.

EMD staff provided the following overview for other homeland security grants as of early August:

- The \$2 million Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Fiscal Year 2002 grant for updating state and local plans and procedures has been extended to Feb. 29, 2004.
- An extension to Feb. 29, 2004, of the \$338,821 FEMA Fiscal Year 2002 grant for Community Emergency Response Training is pending.
- An extension to Feb. 29, 2004, of the \$79,722 FEMA Fiscal Year 2002 grant for Citizen Corps is pending.
- An assessment and strategic plan are to be prepared by Oct. 31 for the expenditure of the \$18 million Urban Area Security Initiative II grant. The grant will be spent on projects in the city of Seattle and in King, Snohomish and Pierce counties.

## EMD named semi-finalist for CSG innovations award

Washington Emergency Management Division (EMD) was one of 10 semi-finalists for the Council of State Governments (CSG) 2003 Innovations Awards Program.

EMD was selected for its Strategic Forecast Support System program that uses remote sensing data to help emergency managers to analyze hazards. EMD outlined the program in July at the 56<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the CSG's Western Legislative Conference.

The National Aeronautics and Oceanic Administration, the University of Washington, and the Western Disaster Center are partners with EMD in the remote sensing project.

## CSEPP begins new public education campaign

The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program in August will begin the third year of its public education campaign for Washington and Oregon residents living near the Umatilla Depot.

This latest campaign, which will include television, radio and newspaper ads, will offer several options to local residents to protect themselves in the event of a chemical emergency at the depot where about 12 percent of the nation's chemical weapons is stored.

Presented in both English and Spanish, the paid media campaign will change each month, discussing such topics as shelter-in-place kits, tone-alert or indoor siren radios, and home emergency plans.

Periodic public opinion surveys conducted by a private polling firm indicate public knowledge of emergency preparedness in the Umatilla area has increased as a result of the campaign.

## EMD creates homeland security section

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Woodbury stressed: "This change, in no way, is a change to our focus on all-hazard approaches towards mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery phases of emergency management. The threat of terrorism and the fourfold expansion of federal programs and requirements requires a tighter and more proactive organizational approach to these homeland security issues."

## Personnel

**Bud Searles**, who has served as the Washington National Guard liaison to the Emergency Management Division since 1980, was named to a state emergency operations officer position effective Aug. 1. His appointment enables EMD to staff two emergency operations officers on duty around the clock.



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**Major General Timothy J. Lowenberg,**  
The Adjutant General

**Glen Woodbury, Director**

**Rob Harper, Mark Clemens, Penelope Cassidy, Editors**

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The Washington Emergency Management Division, including the State Emergency Operations Center, is located in Building 20 on Camp Murray, located at exit 122 on Interstate 5 south of Tacoma, Washington.